

# Basic Kinesiology and Biomechanics

## Learning Objectives

Discuss key terms associated with human movement.

Identify the planes of motion and axes of rotation.

Discuss the different roles muscles can play in human movement.

Explain the different classes of levers and Newton's laws of motion.

Women Of Strength & Conditioning

GirLs Of Gung-Fu

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## Basic Kinesiology and Biomechanics

### Key Terms Associated with Human Movement

- **Kinesiology:** The scientific study of human movement, combining anatomical, physiological, biomechanical, and psychological perspectives.
- **Biomechanics:** The application of mechanical principles to living organisms, especially regarding the forces and motions involved in human movement.
- **Flexion/Extension:** Bending to decrease (flexion) or increase (extension) the angle between bones.
- **Abduction/Adduction:** Movement away from (abduction) or toward (adduction) the midline of the body.
- **Rotation:** Turning movement around an axis, such as internally (medial) or externally (lateral).
- **Axis of Rotation:** An imaginary line about which rotation occurs.
- **Plane of Motion:** An imaginary flat surface along which movement occurs<sup>[1][2]</sup>.

### Planes of Motion and Axes of Rotation

Understanding human movement requires familiarity with three key planes and three associated axes:

Plane	Description	Motions	Axis of Rotation
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<b>Sagittal</b>	Divides body into left and right halves	Flexion/Extension	<b>Frontal (Mediolateral)</b>
<b>Frontal</b>	Divides body into front and back halves	Abduction/Adduction	<b>Sagittal (Anteroposterior)</b>
<b>Transverse</b>	Divides body into top and bottom halves	Rotation	<b>Vertical (Longitudinal)</b>

- Movement *occurs in a plane and around an axis perpendicular to that plane*. For example, flexion and extension (sagittal plane) occur around the frontal (mediolateral) axis<sup>[3][4][5][2]</sup>.

### Different Roles Muscles Play in Human Movement

Muscles have several functional roles during movement:

- **Agonist (Prime Mover):** Main muscle responsible for producing a specific movement.
- **Antagonist:** Muscle that opposes the action of the agonist to control movement or return a limb to its original position.
- **Synergist:** Assists the agonist in performing a movement and helps refine motion.
- **Stabilizer (Fixator):** Stabilizes the origin of the agonist to allow efficient movement<sup>[6][7]</sup>.

### Classes of Levers in the Human Body

A lever in biomechanics is a rigid bar (e.g., bone) rotating around a fixed point (fulcrum, or joint). The three classes are:

Lever Class	Arrangement	Example in Human Body
<b>First-class</b>	Fulcrum between effort and load	Neck extension (skull on atlas)
<b>Second-class</b>	Load between fulcrum and effort	Plantar flexion (standing on tiptoe)
<b>Third-class</b>	Effort between fulcrum and load	Elbow flexion (biceps curl)

- Human movement most commonly uses **third-class levers**, optimizing speed and range over force<sup>[8]</sup>.

## Newton's Laws of Motion and Human Movement

1. **First Law (Inertia):** A body in motion stays in motion, or at rest, unless acted upon by a force. In human movement, limbs require force to start, stop, or change direction.
2. **Second Law (Acceleration):** Force equals mass times acceleration ( $F = ma$ ). Greater force is needed to move greater mass or produce greater acceleration.
3. **Third Law (Action-Reaction):** For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. For example, during running, pushing against the ground generates a reaction force that propels the body forward<sup>[8]</sup>.

### Caveats and Limitations

- The above summary is based upon fundamental principles supported by leading sources in biomechanics and anatomy. Some anatomical examples may vary depending on joint structure and individual differences<sup>[3][9][8]</sup>.
- The organizational names at the end of your query (e.g., "Women Of Strength & Conditioning") are not addressed as they do not pertain to the core kinesiology concepts requested. If you require a connection to these organizations, please clarify.

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## Women Of Strength & Conditioning

**Women of Strength & Conditioning** refers to the growing presence, leadership, and collective action of women in the field of strength training and conditioning. This includes female coaches, athletes, educators, and organizers who are transforming both the practice and culture of strength and conditioning.

### Key Aspects:

- **Influential Female Strength Coaches:** Women like Rachel Balkovec, the first female full-time hitting coach in Major League Baseball, and Callye Williams, Director of Strength and Conditioning at the University of South Alabama, have become prominent role models. These coaches bring expertise from their own

athletic backgrounds and advanced certifications, and are setting standards not just in performance training, but also in professional mentorship and inclusion<sup>[10][11][12]</sup>.

- **Organizations and Movements:**

- o **Women's Strength Coalition (WSC):** Founded to unite female lifters around social justice goals, WSC organizes powerlifting events to benefit charities and promote access to strength training, including for marginalized communities. WSC's efforts include creating support networks and safe, empowering gym environments for women and LGBTQ+ individuals. Their motto: *"Using our collective strength to impact the world in a meaningful way"*<sup>[13]</sup>.
- o **National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA):** The NSCA has established a Women's Committee and initiatives like mentoring, professional development, and resources specifically tailored to support women in the field<sup>[14][15][12]</sup>.
- o **StrongWomen™ Program:** Originating from Tufts University research, this nationwide program has engaged thousands of women, focusing on improving strength, confidence, and autonomy, particularly for older and midlife women<sup>[16]</sup>.
- o **Girls Gone Strong:** This evidence-based educational platform is dedicated to women's health and fitness, offering certifications and resources for coaches and trainers working with female athletes<sup>[17]</sup>.

- **Community and Social Impact:** Women-driven strength organizations often prioritize not just athletic performance, but also mental health, trauma recovery, and body positivity. WSC, for example, incorporates trauma-informed coaching and organizes charitable events that support broader social causes, creating an inclusive community culture<sup>[13]</sup>.
- **Professional Growth & Mentorship:** Through mentorship programs, conferences, and online education, experienced women in strength and conditioning actively support the next generation of female coaches and athletes<sup>[18][12][15]</sup>.
- **Popular Female-led Programs:** Noted female coaches and athletes have created widely recommended strength and weightlifting programs, such as Meg Squats' *Stronger By The Day*, Sohee Lee's *Lift with Sohee*, and Dr. Stefanie Cohen's online

coaching initiatives. These programs are praised for their effectiveness and inclusivity<sup>[19]</sup>.

### Role in Changing the Field:

- Women in strength and conditioning are advocating for evidence-based, individualized programming, creating pathways for more women in leadership, and playing key roles in athlete performance, injury prevention, and holistic wellness<sup>[10]</sup>  
<sup>[18][14]</sup>.

### Caveats:

- Gender disparities still exist in leadership roles and pay, but the field is seeing steady progress in representation, mentorship, and support structures for women<sup>[18]</sup>  
<sup>[15]</sup>.
- Several exemplary organizations and coaches are mentioned, but this is not an exhaustive list; the movement is diverse and continues to grow globally.

If you want details on specific programs, coaches, or mentorship resources, or seek information related to particular subgroups (e.g., Girls Of Gung-Fu or other named organizations), please specify for a more focused response.



## GirLs Of Gung-Fu

The **GirLs Of Gung-Fu** refers to the **Emei Kung Fu Girls**, a popular all-female martial arts troupe formed in April 2024 by a group of Generation Z women across China who are passionate about traditional Chinese martial arts, specifically the Emei style of kung fu<sup>[20]</sup>  
<sup>[21][22][23][24]</sup>.

Key details about the Emei Kung Fu Girls include:

- **Formation and Membership:** The group consists of nine young women who train daily under inheritors of Emei martial arts on Mount Emei in Sichuan Province, a region historically associated with this style. Many members, such as Ling Yun and Duan Ruru, have spent years mastering these kung fu techniques<sup>[20][21][24]</sup>.

- **Cultural Impact and Popularity:** The group became an overnight social media sensation after their first promotional video in May 2024 showcasing their fluid kung fu movements and traditional weapon routines went viral, garnering over one billion views within a week on Chinese platforms like Douyin (TikTok's Chinese equivalent). They have since amassed over a million followers<sup>[20][21][24][25]</sup>.
- **Artistic and Athletic Training:** Beyond kung fu techniques, members take courses in horseback riding, archery, and performing arts to enhance their stage presence and versatility. Their training is rigorous, often lasting up to seven hours a day<sup>[20][21]</sup>.
- **Mission and Vision:** The Emei Kung Fu Girls aim not only to preserve and promote Emei kung fu—listed as a Chinese national intangible cultural heritage—but also to innovate culturally and in media expression. They seek to blend traditional martial arts with contemporary performance forms such as short plays, flash mobs, and variety shows<sup>[20][23]</sup>.
- **International Exposure:** In July 2024, to coincide with the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the group created program content in Paris, performing in iconic locations like the Louvre to showcase traditional Chinese martial arts on the global stage. They also seek to engage in cultural exchanges with other martial arts and regional traditions worldwide<sup>[20][22][23]</sup>.
- **Social Media and Marketing Savvy:** The troupe is known for skillfully using social media platforms to revitalize interest in an ancient art form predominantly perceived as male-dominated. Their videos combine deft swordwork and acrobatics often set to modern music, and they collaborate with brands occasionally, although they have declined to comment on advertising revenue<sup>[24][25]</sup>.
- **Cultural Significance:** The emergence of the Emei Kung Fu Girls marks a significant cultural moment where young women are challenging gender norms in martial arts and reviving lesser-known traditional schools like Emei kung fu, alongside historically famous schools such as Shaolin<sup>[21][24][25]</sup>.

In summary, **GirLs Of Gung-Fu** corresponds to the **Emei Kung Fu Girls**, a groundbreaking female kung fu group blending tradition, athletic prowess, media innovation, and international cultural outreach to inspire a new generation and promote Chinese martial heritage worldwide<sup>[20][21][22][23][24][25]</sup>.



# GIRLS OF GUNG-FU

The **GirLs Of Gung-Fu** refers specifically to the **Emei Kung Fu Girls**, an all-female martial arts troupe from China that has gained widespread acclaim and social media popularity since its formal launch in April 2024<sup>[26][27]</sup>. They are nine Generation Z women dedicated to practicing and promoting the traditional Emei style of kung fu, which is one of the three major Chinese martial arts schools alongside Shaolin and Wudang<sup>[28][29]</sup>.

## Key Highlights:

- **Formation and Membership:**

The group was officially formed during the fourth Emei Martial Arts Inheritance Conference in April 2024. It includes core members like Ling Yun, an inheritor of the Emei martial arts tradition, who started training at a young age and has become a social media star with over 13 million followers on platforms like Douyin<sup>[26][29][30]</sup>.

- **Training and Skills:**

They train intensively on Mount Emei in Sichuan province, practicing basic martial arts as well as specialized Emei kung fu techniques, including weapons such as swords, fans, calligraphy brushes, spears, and hairpins. Their daily routine can extend up to seven hours, combining physical training with courses like horseback riding, archery, and performing arts to enhance stage performance<sup>[28][31][27]</sup>.

- **Cultural Significance and Mission:**

The Emei style is recognized as a national intangible cultural heritage in China since 2008. The group seeks not only to revive and preserve Emei kung fu but also to innovate by blending traditional techniques with modern media and cultural expressions—such as dance, flash mobs, and short plays. They aim to be cultural ambassadors for Chinese martial arts globally, exemplified by their scheduled performances during major international events like the Paris 2024 Olympics<sup>[32][27]</sup>.

- **Social Media Impact:**

Their promotional video, released in early May 2024, quickly went viral, amassing over one billion views within a week and sparking a nationwide craze among young people in China. The group's modernized presentation, combining elegant martial

arts with contemporary music and choreography, has helped alter perceptions around kung fu as a male-dominated field<sup>[28][27][30]</sup>.

- **Official Recognition and Praise:**

The troupe has received praise from prominent Chinese officials. For example, Wang Wenbin, spokesman for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, publicly lauded their performances as "stunning" and representative of the "power of femininity" in martial arts<sup>[29][30]</sup>.

**Summary:**

*GirLs Of Gung-Fu* are the **Emei Kung Fu Girls**, a dynamic, young, female kung fu group dedicated to revitalizing the Emei martial arts tradition through rigorous training, media innovation, and international cultural outreach. Their blend of precise martial skills and savvy social media presence has made them leading figures in promoting traditional Chinese martial arts with a modern, feminine strength<sup>[28][26][27][29]</sup>.

If you want, I can also provide more details on their specific members, style elements, or upcoming international activities.

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## GIRLS OF GOJU-RYU

**Girls of Goju-Ryu** refers broadly to women practitioners, instructors, and groups dedicated to the traditional Okinawan martial art style Goju-Ryu Karate. While no widely recognized formal organization named exactly "Girls of Goju-Ryu" appears in the search results, there are multiple related themes and offerings emphasizing women's participation in Goju-Ryu Karate and related self-defense programs.

### Context on Goju-Ryu Karate

- Goju-Ryu (meaning "hard-soft style") is a traditional Okinawan karate style that blends **hard, linear techniques** with **soft, circular movements**, incorporating punches, kicks, joint locks, throws, and breathing exercises like the **Sanchin** and **Tensho** kata<sup>[33][34][35]</sup>.
- The style emphasizes close-quarters combat and dynamic power, making it effective for self-defense<sup>[36]</sup>.



## Women in Goju-Ryu Karate

- **Women's self-defense and training classes** using Goju-Ryu principles exist, such as the "Karate / Jujitsu for Women" blend taught by ShiHan Kenneth Freeman at the Goju-Ryu Martial Arts Academy. This program focuses on techniques that do not rely solely on strength and blends Goju-Ryu karate, Jujitsu, Aiki-Jujitsu, Aikido, and Boxing. It emphasizes fitness, confidence, flexibility, and self-control specially tailored for women aged 13 and above<sup>[37]</sup>.
- Many Goju-Ryu dojos around the world actively train female practitioners who achieve advanced ranks, as seen in interviews with female black belts like Andrea Klementisová, a 5th dan Goju-Ryu karateka<sup>[38]</sup>.
- Several martial arts clubs and associations, such as the **USA Goju-Ryu Karate-Do** offer private and group classes, including women's self-defense training based on Goju-Ryu principles<sup>[39]</sup>.

## Demonstrations and Visibility

- Videos showcasing traditional Goju-Ryu training and demonstrations often feature female practitioners demonstrating the style's characteristic techniques, like close-quarter strikes, combination drills, and strength conditioning exercises, highlighting the accessibility and effectiveness of this style for women practitioners<sup>[36]</sup>.

## Summary

- While there is no single formal entity publicly known as "Girls of Goju-Ryu," the term can apply to the community of women actively practicing and promoting Goju-Ryu karate worldwide.
- Women-focused Goju-Ryu training programs emphasize empowerment, self-defense, and fitness without requiring brute strength.
- Female Goju-Ryu practitioners hold high ranks, participate in tournaments, and contribute to spreading Okinawan karate globally.

If you are looking for **specific women's Goju-Ryu groups, female instructors, or events**, local dojo networks, women's martial arts organizations, and Goju-Ryu federations often have women-centric classes and seminars. Some known sources include USA Goju-Ryu Karate-Do and specialized mixed martial arts academies offering women-only programs blending Goju-Ryu techniques.

Let me know if you want detailed info on female Goju-Ryu masters, training programs, or resources for women in this martial art.

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